## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

     David P. Ferguson

Serial No.: 09/679,691

Filed: October 5, 2000

For: **Device Detection System and Method**

Group Art Unit: 2157

Examiner: El Chanti

Docket No. 10004941-1

## RESPONSE TO DECISION ON APPEAL

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

     The Decision on Appeal decided on July 24, 2007 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, please consider the following remarks.

## AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT ACCOUNT

     It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Please amend the present application as follows:

***Claims***

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("——") or double brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:


1.      (Currently amended) A method for detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:

sending [[a]] in parallel multiple scan request<u>s</u> <u>from a client computer</u> to [[a]] remote command process<u>es</u> running on [[a]] <u>multiple</u> remote network host<u>s</u>;

scanning ~~the~~ <u>each remote</u> network host with the remote command process<u>es</u> to identify peripheral devices that are directly connected to the <u>remote network</u> host<u>s</u>; ~~and~~

receiving [[a]] <u>with the client computer</u> response<u>s</u> to the scan request from the remote command process<u>es</u> that ~~indicates what~~ <u>identify the peripheral</u> devices <u>that</u> are connected to the <u>various remote</u> network host<u>s and that provide network addresses of the peripheral devices</u>;

<u>the client computer requesting information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices via communications sent to the received network addresses; and</u>

<u>the client computer receiving information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices, that information facilitating use of the peripheral devices by the client computer</u>.

2.    (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a controller process on the client computer is used to send the scan request to the remote command process.

3.    (Canceled)

4.    (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein scanning the remote network hosts with the remote command processes comprises the remote command processes sending [[a]] scan requests from the remote command process to [[a]] host application program interfaces (APIs) resident on the remote network hosts that are configured to scan the remote network hosts for peripheral devices.

5.    (Canceled)

6.    (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining an updated list of each remote network host running a remote command process with a host lookup process.

7.    (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising consulting the list prior to sending the scan request requests.

8-9.    (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating information concerning the ~~detected~~ identified peripheral devices to a user of the client computer.

11. (Currently amended) A device detection system for detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:

means for sending [[a]] multiple scan requests in parallel to [[a]] remote command processes running on [[a]] multiple remote network hosts;

means for scanning the remote network hosts with the remote command processes to identify peripheral devices that are directly connected to the remote network hosts; and

means for receiving [[a]] responses to the scan requests from the remote command processes that ~~indicates  what~~ identify the peripheral devices that are connected to the remote network hosts and that provide network addresses of the peripheral devices;

means for requesting information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices via communications sent to the received network addresses; and

means for receiving information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices, that information facilitating remote use of the peripheral devices.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein a controller process is used to send the scan ~~request~~ requests to the remote command processes.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the controller process runs on a network host.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the means for scanning the <u>remote</u> network host<u>s</u> with the remote command process<u>es</u> comprises means for sending [[a]] scan request<u>s</u> from the remote command process<u>es</u> to [[a]] host application program interface<u>s (APIs) resident on the remote network hosts that are configured to scan the remote network hosts for peripheral devices</u>.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for maintaining an updated list of each <u>remote</u> network host running a remote command process with a host lookup process.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16, further comprising means for consulting the list prior to sending the scan ~~request~~ <u>requests</u>.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for communicating information concerning the ~~detected~~ <u>identified peripheral</u> devices to a user.

21.    (Currently amended) A device detection system for detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:

logic configured to send [[a]] multiple scan requests in parallel to [[a]] remote command processes running on [[a]] multiple remote network hosts;

logic configured to scan the remote network hosts with the remote command processes to identify peripheral devices that are directly connected to the remote network hosts; and

logic configured to receive [[a]] responses to the scan requests from the remote command processes that indicates what identify the peripheral devices that are connected to the network hosts and that provide network addresses of the peripheral devices;

logic configured to request information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices via communications sent to the received network addresses; and

logic configured to receive information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices, that information facilitating remote use of the peripheral devices.


22.    (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein a controller process is used to send the scan requests to the remote command processes.


23.    (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller process runs on a network host.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the logic configured to scan the <u>remote</u> network host<u>s</u> with the remote command process<u>es</u> comprises logic configured to send [[a]] scan request<u>s</u> from the remote command process<u>es</u> to [[a]] host application program interface<u>s (APIs) resident on the remote network hosts that are configured to scan the remote network hosts for peripheral devices</u>.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising logic configured to maintain an updated list of each <u>remote</u> network host running a remote command process with a host lookup process.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26, further comprising logic configured to consult the list prior to sending the scan ~~request~~ <u>requests</u>.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising logic configured to communicate information concerning the ~~detected~~ <u>identified peripheral</u> devices to a user.

31.    (Currently amended) A device detection system for remotely detecting devices connected to a network, comprising:

~~a controller process running on a first network host, the controller process being configured to send a scan request to a remote network host; and~~

[[a]] multiple remote command process<u>es</u> running on ~~a second~~ <u>multiple remote</u> network host<u>s</u>, the remote command process<u>es</u> being configured to receive ~~the~~ scan ~~request~~ <u>requests</u> sent by ~~the~~ <u>a</u> controller process and<u>, responsive to those scan requests,</u> initiate [[a]] scan<u>ning</u> of the ~~second~~ <u>remote</u> network ~~host~~ <u>hosts</u> to identify peripheral devices that are directly connected to the ~~second~~ <u>remote</u> network host<u>s,</u> <u>receive results from the scanning that identify the peripheral devices and their network addresses, and provide the results to the controller process; and</u>

a controller process running on a ~~first network host~~ <u>client computer</u>, the controller process being configured to send [[a]] <u>multiple</u> scan request<u>s</u> <u>in parallel</u> to [[a]] <u>the</u> <u>multiple</u> remote network host<u>s, receive the scanning results from the remote command processes, and directly communicate with the peripheral devices via the received network addresses to obtain information from the peripheral devices that will facilitate use of the peripheral devices by the client computer.</u>


32.    (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, further comprising a host lookup process that maintains an updated list of every <u>remote</u> network host that is running a remote command process.

33.    (Currently amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the host lookup process runs on the ~~first network host~~ client computer.

34.    (Currently amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the host lookup process runs on ~~a third~~ one of the remote network host~~s~~.

35.    (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral devices comprise at least one of a disk drive, a tape drive, a tape library, and a modem.

36.    (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the peripheral devices comprise at least one of a disk drive, a tape drive, a tape library, and a modem.

37.    (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the peripheral devices comprise at least one of a disk drive, a tape drive, a tape library, and a modem.

38.    (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the peripheral devices comprise at least one of a disk drive, a tape drive, a tape library, and a modem.

## REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Decision on Appeal mailed July 24, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

As indicated above, Applicant has amended each independent claim through this Response. In view of those amendments, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of *Goshey et al.* ("Goshey," U.S. 6,101,555) are considered moot.

Regarding the merits of the claims, Applicant notes that Goshey does not, as described previously in the prosecution of the instant application, teach or suggest sending "in parallel" multiple scan requests to remote command processes running on multiple remote network hosts. In addition, Goshey does not teach or suggest receiving responses to the scan requests from the remote command processes that include the network addresses of the peripheral devices. Furthermore, Goshey does not teach or suggest "requesting information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices via communications sent to the received network addresses" or "receiving information about the peripheral devices directly from the peripheral devices, that information facilitating use of the peripheral devices by the client computer". In view of those facts, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims are allowable over the Goshey reference.

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied prior art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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